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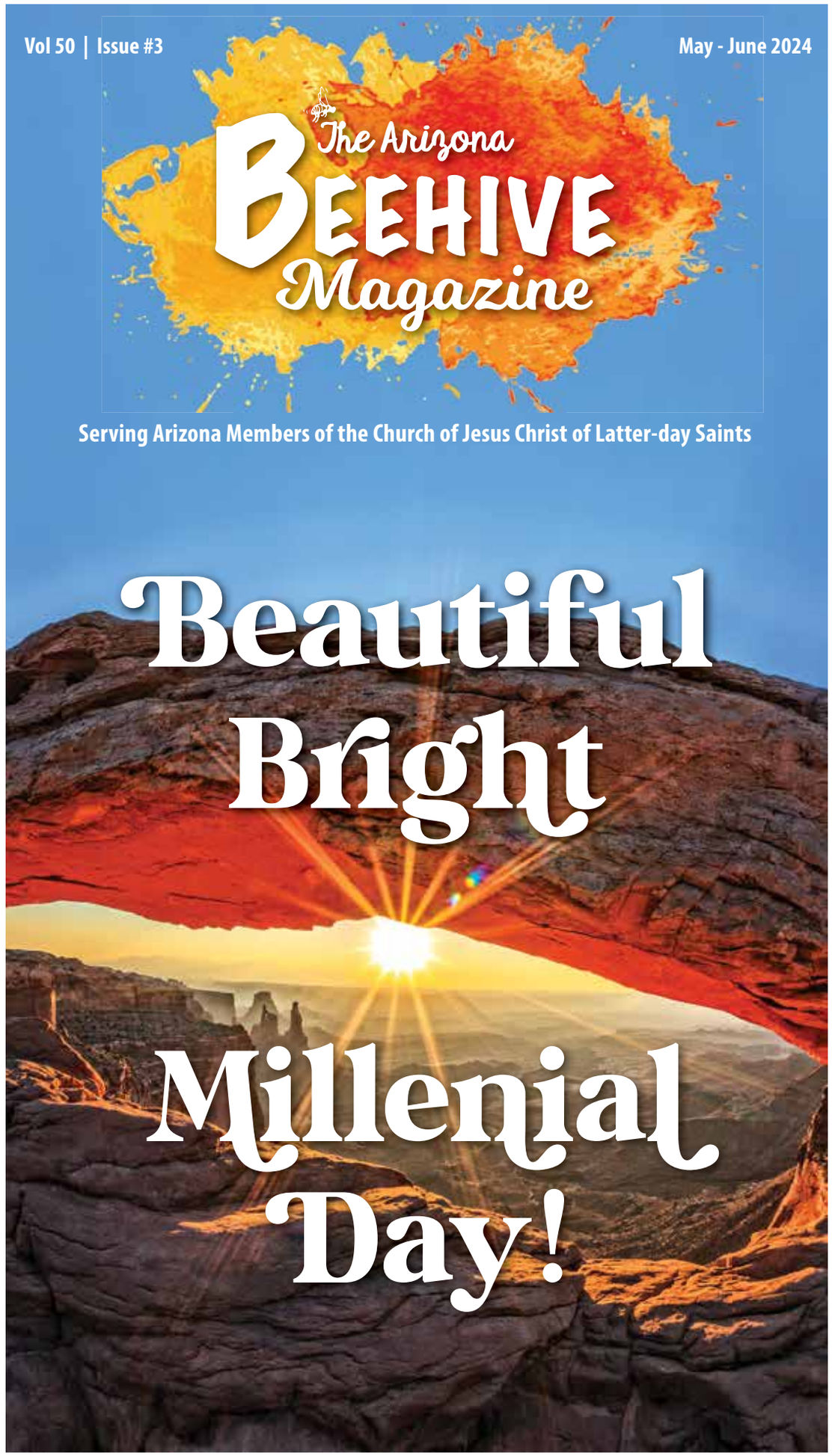
The Arizona Beehive Magazine

Serving Arizona Members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints



Beautiful Bright Millenial Day!

ON THE COVER

Sunrise at Mesa Arch, Canyonlands National Monument

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SET IN STONE

New Mexico Town Preserves Its Roots and Stories

By Emily Jex Boyle

Looking for a unique way to celebrate the 4th of July, including a place to the beat the heat? This summer, the town of Virden, New Mexico is planning to celebrate its history on a large scale, and you're all invited!

VIRDEN TOWN HISTORY

Located along the western edge of Hidalgo county along the beautiful Gila River and the Arizona border, Virden, New Mexico was settled in 1916. At that time, members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints were fleeing Pancho Villa in Mexico. Families left their farms and homes in Mexico behind, flooding across the border to find a place to settle where they could find it. Some came to the Gila River in New Mexico near the Arizona border because it was relatively undeveloped and had potential.

Now, Jon Swapp, president of the Virden Historical Society, says the town is, "the best kept secret in all of New Mexico."

Photo courtesy Virden Historical Society
Members of the historical society pick up the bas relief for the monument in Utah.

This July, the town would like to be anything but a secret as they celebrate the 100th anniversary of a monumental moment in local history. The area is proud to claim notable historical and church leaders, including the first female Supreme Court Justice, Sandra Day O'Connor.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the settlers paying off the communal debt owed to help settle Virden. Families came together to form a company, purchasing property for $50,000 with $5,000 down at 7% interest. The plan was for the company to pay the debt in ten years.

Seventeen acres of farmable land were given to each family as well as a one-acre plot inside the town. They signed a note with a lender back east named Virden. "When they signed

Continued on pg. 5

What's The Buzz?

I found it interesting and amusing that some people equated the recent solar eclipse to the "end of the world." A potential client withdrew their commitment to advertise because "the world is going to end, anyway, so..." Pretty sure this was not the first eclipse during mankind's occupation of Earth!

The oldest recorded eclipse in human history may have been on Nov. 30, 3340 B.C.E. A series of spiral-shaped and circular petroglyphs was found at the Loughcrew Megalithic Monument in County Meath, Ireland. (https://science.nasa.gov/eclipses/history/) Since then hundreds of eclipses have occurred. And of course, we seem to still be standing.

To me this was just another distraction in a world chalk full of them. And another "depends on how you look at it" moment. While others were sheltering in place waiting for the walls to come tumbling down, many others like my two granddaughters were watching the eclipse in retina-safe awe. They were excited to witness another one of God's creations manifested by the order of the Universe. These two children of God were thankful for the experience, and for their understanding of how things work.

Elder Holland mentioned during his April 2024 General Conference talk a quote by British author G.K. Chesterton that focused on gratitude: "Thanks are the highest forms of thought, and gratitude is happiness doubled by wonder." My granddaughters were thankful for the wonder of this event. And I was grateful for their parents, ward and fellow Latter-day Saints who've taught and share with them the same divine knowledge and comfort they have, even during "world ending events."

Thank you for reading. I am grateful for each of you and that truly doubles my wonder and happiness!

Michael O'Brien
Publisher

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the contract, all of the families had to pay. If they defaulted, all of the families would lose the land," Joni Taylor explains, "Only one family had enough to pay for the down payment. The rest had to borrow. It was a collaborative effort." The debt was paid off early and once complete, the mortgage papers were burned.

There are Virden families whose roots here are three generations old. They are farming the same ground. Land farmed by father, grandfather and great-grandfather, raising corn, cotton and alfalfa.

Before the schools closed and local students began attending school in Duncan, Arizona, Virden school teams brought the thrill of the game to this quiet town. Traditionally if there was a victory at a game, there would be the snake dance, which included townspeople joining hands and weaving around the community.

Photos courtesy Virden Historical Society

Virden 1931-32 First Grade
Miss Pearl Tenney Teacher 1St. row Robert Payne, Velma Mae Lunt, John Campbell, Celestina
2nd row Chappo Albert, Lavona Richins, Erlene Johnson, Clyde Jones, Robert Johns, Willis Gonzales, Dolores ?,
Erwin Richardson, Irene Mortensen, 3rd row Lorna Pace, 4th row Billy Merrell, Edwin Richardson, Karl Donaldson,
June Hatch, Irene Jorgensen, Joseph Payne, Vanita Pace, Gene Wablin & Tommy Pace(visitor)

MEMORIALIZING THE PAST

In the past few years, there was more serious talk about preserving Virden's past. Originally it was thought to build a museum from the old church building, but the ultimate decision was to build a monument instead. The historical society sent out letters to relatives asking for donations and created a Facebook page. Over the past year, funding progress was tracked and posted on the page, showing how much money had been raised. "It was amazing to watch," Joni Taylor says, "many donations were for $50 or less. Many people donated." The town found courage and determination from Virden's early settlers when considering the task at hand to preserve history. "If these saints could pay off their debt, we could get together and raise the money." Swapp explains, "People came out of the woodwork to donate."

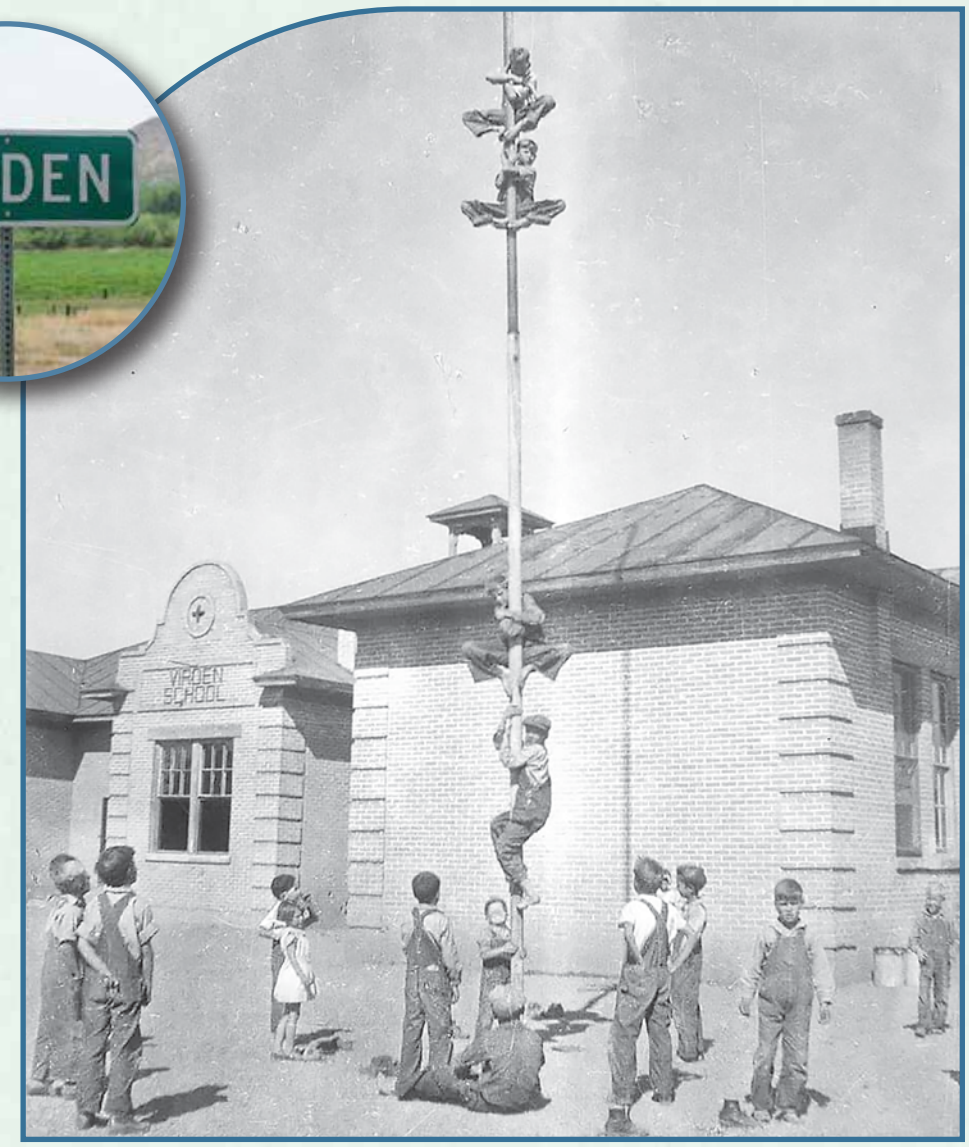
Earlier this year, ground was broken for the Virden monument to honor early settlers of the town. The town's historical society is seeking to honor the town's story, making sure as many stories as possible can be preserved. Swapp's own personal commitment to Virden's roots stretches back to a thought shared by his history professor at NMSU: Knowing the stories of those who came before us is one way to pay our debt to them. The monument, to be erected in front of the old Virden church, contains nearly 100 names, etched in granite along with their pictures. A twenty-four square foot bas relief is to be the focus of the monument depicting life in the town back then.

Stories include the burning of the promissory note and other important events in the lives of those who lived them. This Spring, the bas relief was picked up in Utah, created by Kenneth Packer, artist and son of the late Boyd K. Packer, apostle and fellow artist.

VIRDEN LEGACY CELEBRATION: JULY 5-6, 2024

The town is gearing up for a celebration of the century. This summer, all are invited and all are welcome. Festivities are set to begin on Friday, July 5th with guided area tours of the

Continued on pg. 7



Virden School 1933-34 Flag Pole. ***(From the Joseph Moffet collection)***

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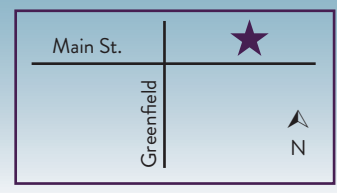

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Virden New Mexico

Continued from pg. 5

surrounding area including Steeple Rock, petroglyph sites and more historical sites. The Lordsburg Museum will also be available to visit with information about Virden and Hidalgo County. Later in the day, self-guided tours will also be offered with a map including houses from years ago. Historical information for each house will be included. Friday evening there will be an open house at the church as well as a Frito Pie dinner.

Virden High School Choir photo 1935-36. ***Top – L-R:*** **Robert Anderson, Ida Mae Davidson, Marjorie Nelson, Ethel Johns, Lorrayne Keeler, Helen Tenney, Lorraine John, Adelma Payne, Lenore Richins, Wanda Foster, Thelma Merrell, Venna Allred, Winifred Payne, Vetta Payne, Ione Payne.** ***Middle – L-R:*** **Golda Richins, Phyllis Patten, Pearl Jensen, Emma Echols, Amelia Jones, Ruth Hatch, Lucille Merrell, Gertrude Brown, Teresa Anderson.** ***Bottom- L-R:*** **Osborne Smith, Kent Keeler, Tom Watson, Chester Mortensen, George Coleman, LeRoss Jones, V.O. Jones**

The town found courage and determination from Virden's early settlers when considering the task at hand to preserve history.

Evening events include a historical presentation and guests are encouraged to bring displays of local historical significance.

On Saturday morning July 6th the monument will be unveiled with a program including speakers and music tied to the land. Throughout the weekend, cemetery maps will be available to find relatives' grave sites. Local history books will be available for sale. Saturday evening there will be a barbecue dinner followed by a family dance from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. with a live band, known as the Cotton City Boll Weevils.

If you're planning to attend, you're invited to contact the Virden Historical Society at 575-358-2386 or email bethleenswapp@yahoo.com.

Virden Legacy Celebration
Tentative Schedule of Events
Virden Events Center
Virden, New Mexico
July 4: Village of Virden Pancake Breakfast
Duncan 4th of July Parade
July 5: Area Tours, Townsite Tours, Lordsburg Museum, Visiting, Light Dinner
July 6: Pancake Breakfast, Virden Settlers Monument Program and Unveiling, Games, Visiting, Family Displays, BBQ Dinner, Dance
Please see the Virden Historical Society Facebook Page,
email us at virdenhistoricalsociety@gmail.com
or call 575-358-2286 for questions or more information.
Greetings ISLAND

The town is gearing up for a celebration of the century on July 5-6, 2024.

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Endorsed by Both Mesa Police and Fire

"I am a proud Mesa resident for over 50 years. For over four decades, I have the honor and privilege of serving the city I love, as a business owner, professional and as your mayor. I am very optimistic about Mesa's future, and am excited by the opportunities for growth and improvement. I believe Mesa has unlimited potential, and I am dedicated to working with you to meet our challenges, solve our problems, and set the stage for the success of future generations.

It is time to build on our successes and shape a Mesa that excels in public safety, strategic quality growth, and educational and economic growth for our residents."

~ Scott Smith

SECURING MESA'S FUTURE

Through over 40 years of experience in both business and government, Scott Smith has a proven record of successful leadership and dedication to Mesa. As Mesa's Mayor from 2008-2014 and in his service in other areas, Scott has worked with the community to successfully define and implement a vision of Mesa that will lead our city toward a bright future.

Scott Smith will be a Mayor For Mesa; securing our future and unlocking the city's potential for the next generation.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Your safety is priority number 1. A community cannot grow and succeed if its residents do not feel safe. As mayor, Scott Smith navigated Mesa through very challenging times while ensuring that our public safety maintained its level of excellence. His proven track record of leadership is the main reason Scott Smith is the only candidate for mayor who is endorsed by both Mesa police and fire professionals.

GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

Scott Smith's vision for Mesa extends beyond the present, focusing on sustainable growth and dynamic development. Having witnessed the city's transformation and growth, he is eager to use his years of experience to propel Mesa into its next phase of expansion— planning for sustainable water infrastructure, integrated building development, and fostering economic opportunities for our residents.

VISION FOR MESA'S FUTURE

Scott Smith's passion for Mesa extends into a vision for the future. Having gained the confidence of residents during previous service, Scott envisions a Mesa that excels in safety as well as education and economic opportunity.

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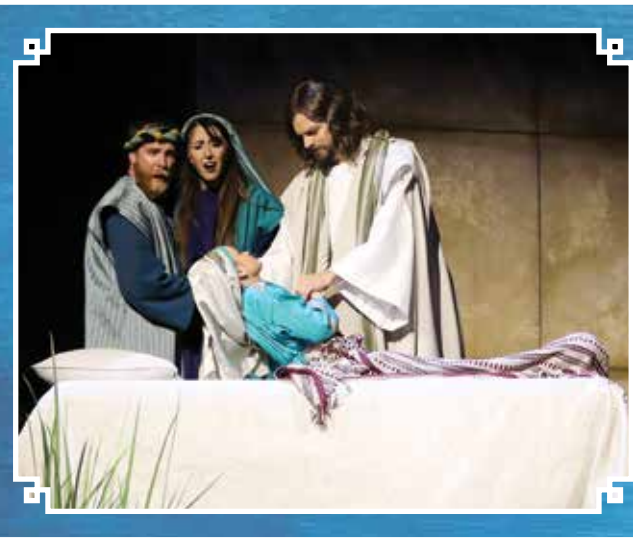
CHRIST HAS WON THE VICTORY!

Images from the 2024 Mesa Easter Pageant. *Photos by Robin Finlinson.*

Jenee Wright Prince, pageant director since 2012, explains the task at hand putting on the Mesa Easter Pageant: "We have the task of portraying the life of the Savior in a way so that hundreds of thousands of people can feel the Spirit in a beautiful Easter message. As a cast, we are there to present the story of the Savior. Even though we are imperfect and often fall short, the Lord always fills in the gap. Always makes up the difference."

(Church News, March 17, 2016 as quoted in *The Mesa Easter Pageant–80 Years of Sharing The Story Of Jesus Christ* by Jill Bishop Adair & Cecily Markland Condie)



Family Reunions

That Inspire & Empower

By Rauna Mortensen

Family reunions can help our families feel they "belong to something bigger." In his *New York Times* article "The Stories That Bind Us," Bruce Feiler shares studies that found that the more children know about their family's story, "the stronger their sense of control over their lives, the higher their self-esteem and the more successfully they believed their families functioned." If your children feel they belong to something bigger, they demonstrate more resilience. "If you want a happier family, create, refine and retell the story of your family's positive moments and your ability to bounce back from the difficult ones. That act alone may increase the odds that your family will thrive for many generations to come."

Let's consider some family reunion tips to help your loved ones feel they "belong to something bigger."

Have a purpose for your family reunion; set some goals as to what you hope to accomplish. Customize it to your family, whether they prefer camping or renting out a large building for housing together, etc. Give dates well in advance.

Take turns being in charge. Delegate heavily, and that will increase attendance and investment. Choose meal arrangements your family can be comfortable with.

Find the best balance of structure and open time that works best for your family. Consider all ages and remember the littlest. Give teenagers plenty of time to bond with their cousins; their examples can bless them in future decisions.

Want to center your activities around a theme? Try the Olympics. Or celebrating as many calendar holidays as you can in one weekend. Organize the family into Book of Mormon-themed battalions.

Other fun touches:

- A family version of "speed dating" provides an organized opportunity for short visits with many family members.
- Make a one-shot music video together, then put it on YouTube for future viewing.
- Carnival! Each core family hosts a booth.
- Make a memory: put on a short roadshow with the director providing a ready-made script, simple costumes, and music. Alternatively, split into groups, giving each a few parameters and random props and have them create a short play to be presented in an hour.

Continued on pg. 19

Reunion Olympics Team. Photo by Lavona Richardson

Family Reunion Roadshow. Photo by Rauna Mortensen

A Celebration of Culture & Faith

GATHERING OF TRIBES 2024

By Nina Allred

Photos by Nina Allred

In the heart of Mesa, Arizona, a remarkable celebration unfolded on March 22 and 23, 2024. Known as the Gathering of Tribes 2024, this event brought together over 600 members from various indigenous groups, including Diné, Gila River, Hopi, and Cherokee. Spearheaded by Cindy Quinney, a Native American from the Onion Lake Cree Nation in Saskatchewan, Canada, Gathering of Tribes is quickly becoming a beacon of cultural celebration and spiritual enrichment for Indigenous peoples across North America.

Cindy's journey to founding the Gathering of Tribes began with a deeply personal experience. She spent part of her childhood under the care of a Latter-day Saint family, away from other Indigenous members of the church. A chance encounter in 2021 at the Calgary Alberta Temple reignited her connection to her Indigenous heritage and faith. Inspired by this encounter and guided by prayer, Cindy felt compelled to create a space where Indigenous members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints could come together, celebrate their heritage, and strengthen their testimonies.

Cindy and a dedicated team organized the first-ever Gathering of Tribes in Canada in 2022. Since then, the event has expanded to include gatherings in Mesa, Arizona; West Jordan, Utah; and Cardston, Alberta, Canada. "This is the beginning of the physical gathering of Israel from the four corners of the earth as prophesied in the Book of Mormon," states Cindy.

The Mesa event was a testament to the power of community and faith. Attendees were treated to a rich array of cultural performances, including traditional Native American, Polynesian, and South American dances. The event also featured inspirational speakers, family history presentations, service projects, and fireside gatherings for adults, while children enjoyed a variety of entertaining activities.

Cindy attributes the success of the Gathering

Continued on pg. 20

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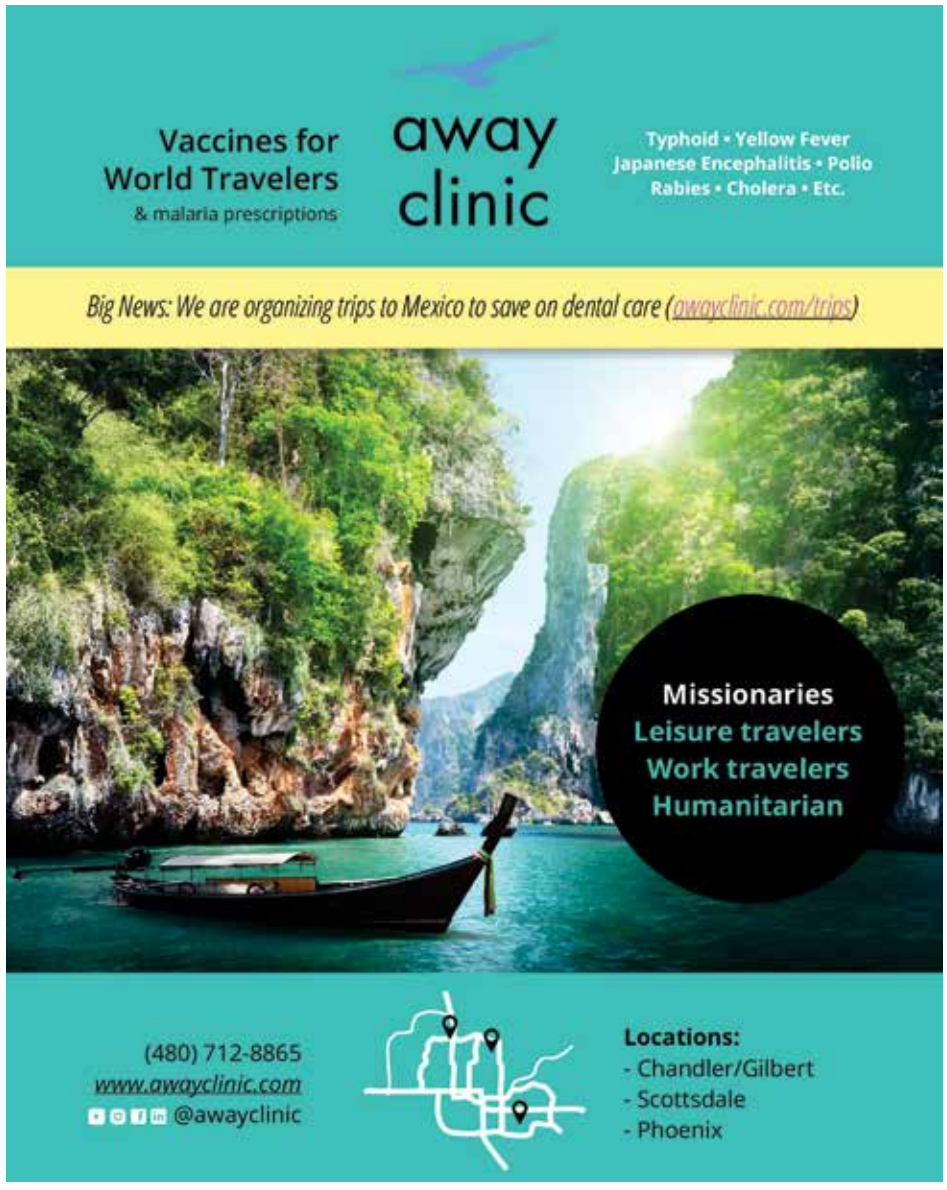
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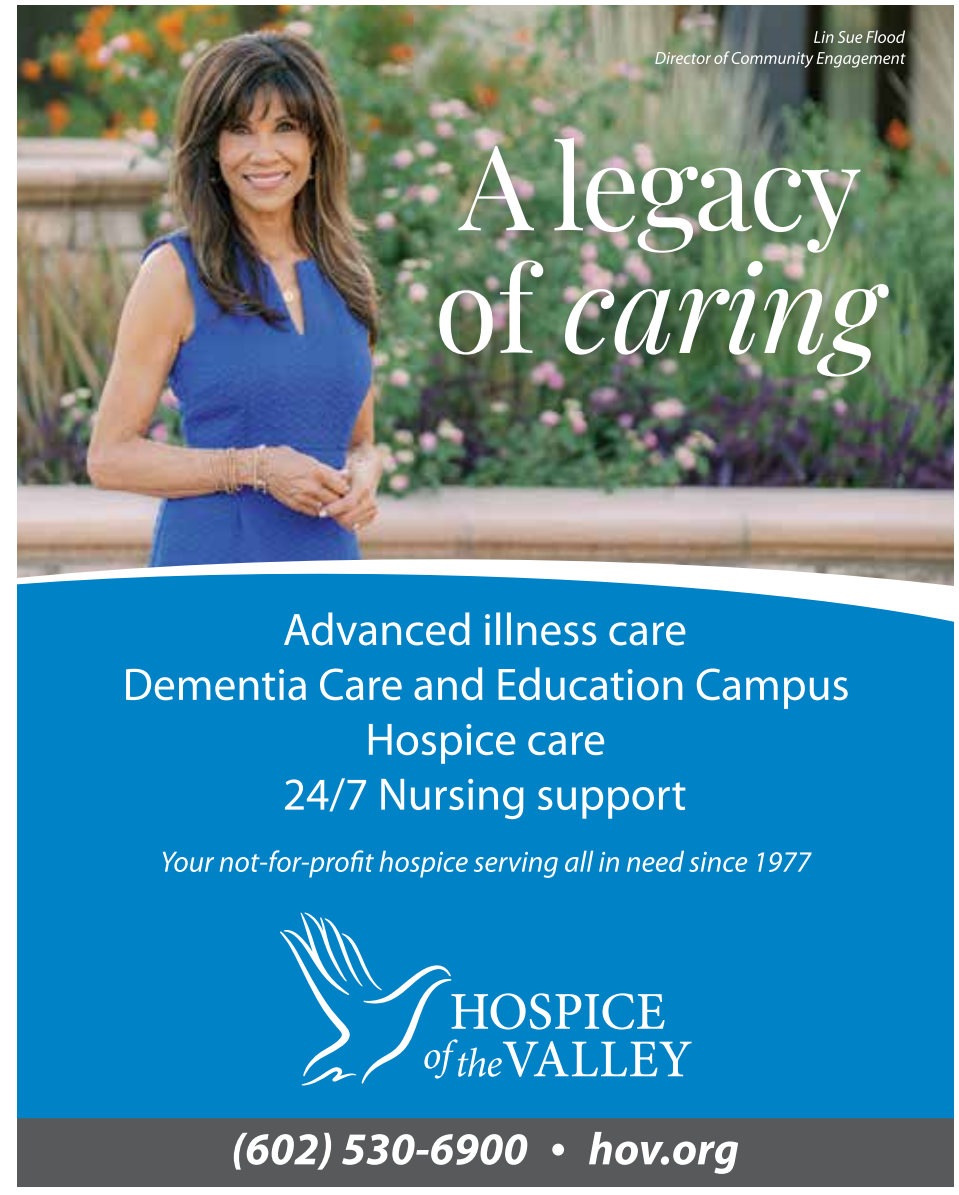
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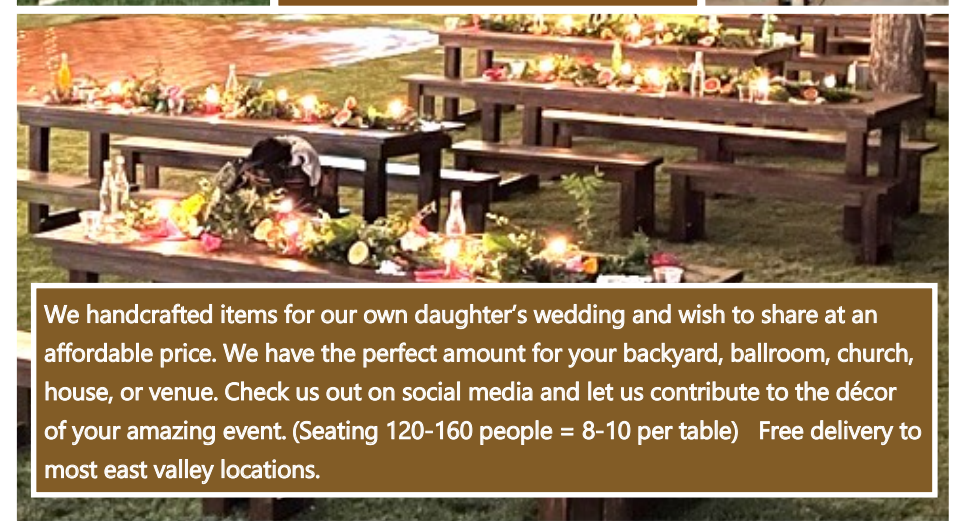

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All photos by Robin Finlinson

Light the World

2023 Giving Machines Results

Left to right: Steve Lowder; Rachel Allen (Board Member, Winged Hope); Lindsey Pittman (Co-founder and Director of Operations, Manes & Miracles); Shannon Clancy (CEO, St. Vincent de Paul-Phoenix); Katie Kahle (Director, Chandler Care Center); Susan Mulhearn (Co-founder and Vice President, ASA Now); Curtis Christensen (Board Chairman, Care for Life); Fran Lowder.

By thechurchnews.com

Every Christmas season, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints invites the world to commemorate and celebrate the life of Jesus Christ.

Since 2016, the Light the World initiative invites all to follow the Savior's example—and in 2017, Giving Machines became a part of this effort.

The customized red vending machines allow people to choose something to give to someone else in need—in their own neighborhood or around the world—through local and international nonprofit organizations.

"The miracle of the Giving Machine initiative is found in the lives of givers who become more Christlike and recipients who feel His love," said Karl Cheney, program manager.

2023 Giving Machines donations by the numbers:

- $10.4 million donated through Giving Machines in 61 locations across seven countries
- Approximately 600,000 people visited Giving Machines in 2023.
- Those donations included:
- 2,000,000 meals
- 660,000 vaccinations against polio, measles, rubella and other diseases
- 125,000 chickens
- 8,500 hygiene kits
- 12,500 beds, mattresses, sheets and blankets
- 11,000 backpacks of school supplies
- 7,700 newborn care supplies
- 2,000 school uniforms
- 1,800 community wells
- 1,100 job training or certifications

"Each number represents a person being fed, clothed, educated and trained," Cheney said. "Hundreds of thousands of children will be vaccinated and sheltered, thousands of newborn babies will receive a healthier start, and countless women and men in every corner of the world will have their dignity restored."

Note: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints covers all operational costs for the Light the World Giving Machine initiative. Individual credit card transaction fees are covered by the donor or the Church. As such, participating nonprofit organizations receive 100% of every donation to purchase and deliver your selected item(s). (churchofjesuschrist.org)

Left to right: Elder John Lewis (Area Seventy); Gilbert Mayor Brigette Peterson; Lindsey Pittman (Manes & Miracles); Bryan McClure (Queen Creek Area Communication Director); Bonnie Haverland (Manes & Miracles); Cat Thomason (Service Missionary); Berta Erickson and Betsy Stimpson (Manes & Miracles); Fran Lowder and Steve Lowder (Arizona Giving Machine Directors).

Left to right: Steve and Fran Lowder; Elder Lewis; Mayor Peterson; Shawn Donnelly, Shannon Clancy and Danielle McMahon (St. Vincent de Paul-Phoenix); Ruth Pagán (Arizona JustServe Director); Pamela Crow (Phoenix East Area JustServe Specialist); Josh Molina (High Councilor, Phoenix East Stake).

Left to right: Steve and Fran Lowder; Elder Lewis; Mayor Peterson; Brandis Goodman, Susan Mulhearn and Angela Teachout (ASA Now); Matt Tonioli (High Councilor, Salt River Stake); Allison Taylor (JustServe Specialist, Salt River Stake); Brenda Nielsen (Mesa East Area JustServe Specialist).

Left to right: Elder Lewis; Mayor Peterson; Lisa Bailey, Chelsea Kerchansky, Dave LaVoy, Jessica Nicely, Victoria Perez, Samantha Kluger, Rachel Allen, Joyce McLaren, Cherie Rubio and Kylie Yanis (Winged Hope); Fran and Steve Lowder.

Left to right: Eliza Terry (Care for Life); Elder Lewis; Mayor Peterson; Annie Lewis, Blair Packard, Linda Harper, Jodi Thomson, Kevin Thomson, Curtis Christensen and Richard Andrews (Care for Life); Fran and Steve Lowder.

Left to right: Steve and Fran Lowder; Elder Lewis; Mayor Peterson; Niki Tapia (DEI Officer, City of Chandler); Jennifer Bertoldo, Katie Kahle, Kathleen Dowler and Kymberly Marshall (Chandler Care Center).

A HOME FOR MESA'S HISTORY

MESA HISTORY MUSEUM

By Allison Beckert

All photos by Allison Beckert

Mesa Historical Museum front.

Mesa as a city, and as a home to myself and much of my family, has a soft place in my heart. The Church is present everywhere in this town, with its streets numbered out from the Temple, church buildings never far away, and family names whose reach seem endless and familiar. The Mesa Historical Museum honors the history of this place, recognizing not just the church and its impact but every other group, meaningful public project, and several gems of art and culture who have been part of its growth.

Like many museums, the building you visit is as much a piece of history as the contents of the exhibits. The museum was originally at the Old City Hall in downtown Mesa, and on its split from the Natural History Museum, it made a new home in the Old Lehi school building. Originally built in 1913, it was renovated and developed a few times. Rather than go the way of so many old buildings, a memorial to local history was created when it was made over in 1986.

Old Adobe Lehi school replica.

Play Ball dugout display.

I enjoy spending time with the collections at the Mesa Historical Museum. While not a large space for exhibits, the care taken with each subject and piece in these collections is so potent. One of my personal favorites is Karen Kuykendall's featured art. I'm always inspired by her story and the range of her skills.

O'odham and Piipaash display.

Another highlight of every visit is the Play Ball: The Arizona Spring Training Experience and Cactus League Hall of Fame. Baseball has been a draw for commerce and tourism in Mesa since the 40s, and the exhibit has been assembled with creativity and care. My own family are dedicated baseball fans, and the stories shared in the multimedia presentation compliment the memorabilia spanning decades of local sports history.

With such an influx of visitors during spring training, there will soon be a dedicated baseball museum in the Old Lehi auditorium. Executive Director and Curator Susan Ricci explains, "We have

Continued on pg. 19

Karen Kuykendall display.

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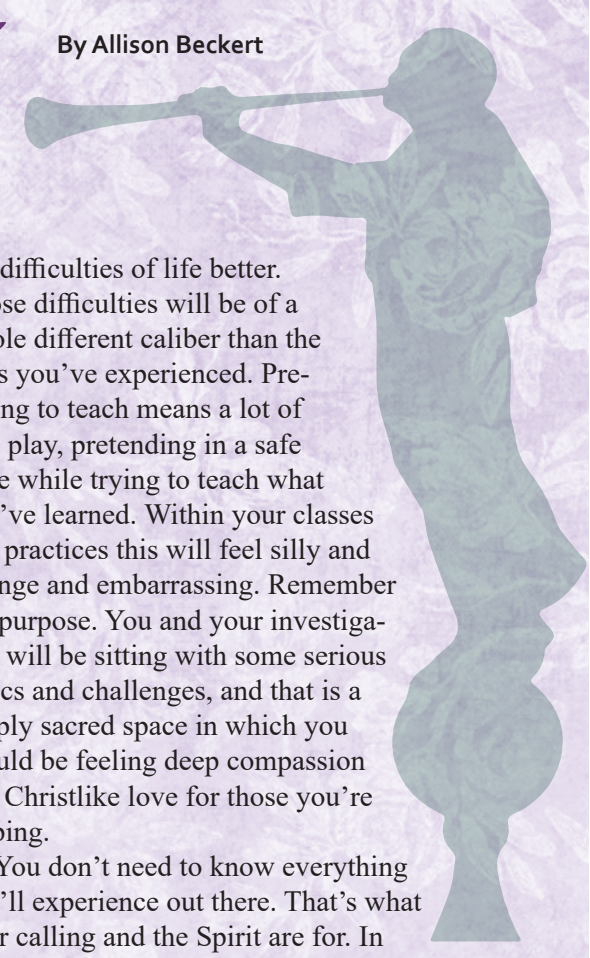
PREP YOUR MISSIONARY

Enroll In The Mission Preparation Course

By Allison Beckert



Having a word here on Mission Preparation classes seems obvious, but what surprises most people upon reporting to the training centers is the MTC experience is specifically about learning how to teach and work with others. It isn't a testimony boot camp – and a boot camp is what's needed to come out to the field with a firm foundation at such a young age. This testimony work has a classroom in the Mission Preparation class.

If your ward, stake, or Institute offers this class, take full advantage! Preach My Gospel is a treasure trove of teaching and learning, but as a missionary your focus is on who you are teaching and connecting with as representatives of Christ. It's also a powerful tool to build your own testimony, and one that can be explored for yourself and your spiritual growth with the guidance and support within the Mission Preparation curriculum.

The Mission Preparation course is logged with the Institute curriculum, and if your stake or ward doesn't host a class you can attend, take time to review those lessons in the teacher's manual yourself. Families of prospective missionaries - these lessons can be wonderful to use in Family Home Evenings - and your preparing missionaries can practice the principles with you or your other children.

Teaching by the Spirit is infinitely easier when you're familiar with your faith. Understand how you stand with our core doctrines that differ from those of other Christian faiths. Take time before you're in front of others as an instructor to figure out how you feel about difficult parts of Church history. Though many stories from returned missionaries say it was on the mission they grew to love the scriptures, the mission field isn't for you to learn to study and grow. It's for you to show others the way, a way you should learn by heart before reporting.

The gospel teaches people in all our flawed natures how to tap into our connection to God, making difficulties of life better. Those difficulties will be of a whole different caliber than the ones you've experienced. Preparing to teach means a lot of role play, pretending in a safe zone while trying to teach what you've learned. Within your classes and practices this will feel silly and strange and embarrassing. Remember the purpose. You and your investigators will be sitting with some serious topics and challenges, and that is a deeply sacred space in which you should be feeling deep compassion and Christlike love for those you're helping.

Photo courtesy Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Media Library

You don't need to know everything you'll experience out there. That's what your calling and the Spirit are for. In this phase of your preparation, this actually is all about you. Who are you when someone is vulnerable? What do you truly know when it comes to sharing your testimony? How do you feel when repenting and doing the work? The Missionary Preparation course is too precious a resource not to use.

Next Generation Of Service

By A New Leaf

(l to r) Mark Schnepf, McCall Schnepf, Carrie Schnepf

McCall Schnepf, daughter of Mark and Carrie Schnepf—owners of Schnepf Farms and recognized community leaders—has always been driven by a deep-seated desire to serve her community. Inspired by her parents' long-time commitment to local impact, McCall has taken on an important new role at A New Leaf as Special Events Manager. A New Leaf provides social services across the Valley, helping those facing homelessness, domestic violence, and other heartbreaking challenges.

This work is directly channeling her passion for service into meaningful philanthropic work. Her recent leadership while organizing A New Leaf's 35th Annual Camaraderie Gala is a testament to her dedication. Held on March 23, 2024, at the JW Marriott Phoenix Desert Ridge with the theme "A Night in Positano," the gala was a resounding success. The fundraising event drew in over 500 attendees and raised nearly $850,000 to support families in crisis across the Valley.

McCall crafted an event that showcased her ability to foster community bonds and drive forward her family's enduring belief of public service. She is inspiring the next generation of philanthropists and modernizing engagement opportunities for everyone. This belief is rooted both in the Schnepf family's faith, and their family values.

Importantly, McCall's work with A New Leaf isn't just a career—it's a continuation of a family ethos that values "service to others" above all. By stepping into this role and excelling in it, she reaffirms the Schnepf family's legacy of compassionate leadership. This crucial work not only contributes financially to helping those in need, but also strengthens the community and ensures that the values her parents championed are carried forward.

As McCall Schnepf continues to build on this foundation, her efforts at A New Leaf serve as a powerful example of how dedicated leadership can extend a family's legacy of service, impacting countless lives and shaping the future of community engagement in the Valley. This commitment is truly setting a standard for future generations of Valley leaders.

a new leaf
helping families, changing lives

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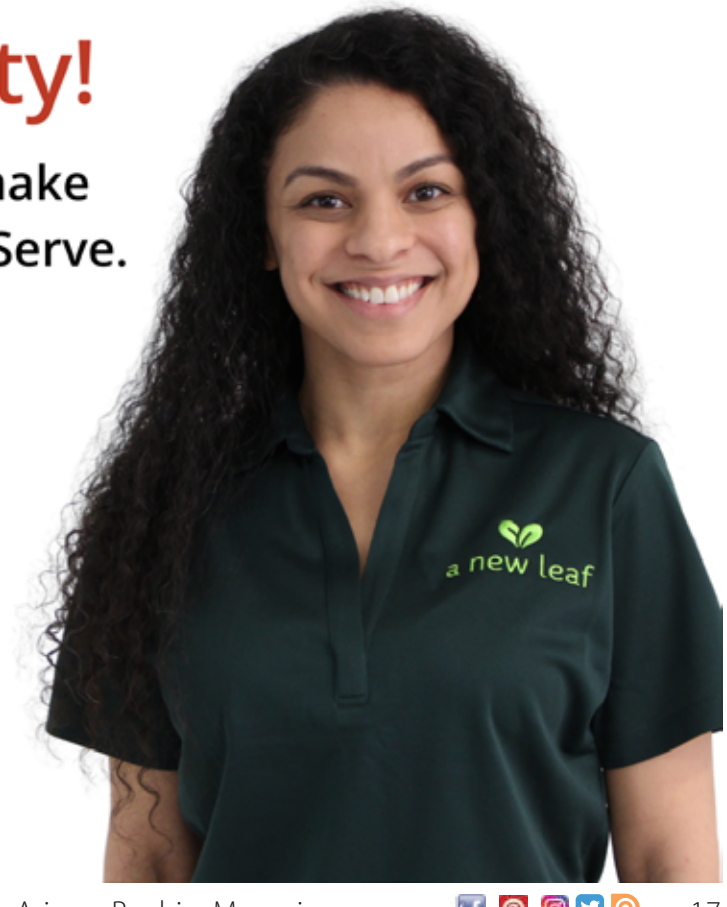
- Preparing meals at a homeless shelter
- Painting murals at local community centers

We believe people like you can truly make the world a better place - one person, one project, one hour at a time. Only by taking action today will our community move towards a better, brighter future! Join us today!

Visit: JustServe.org/ANewLeaf



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Comedy Corner

By Mark Randall

A young man returned from a Sunday Youth Standard Night and gave his mother a tight hug and a very long passionate kiss. His shocked mother backing away said, "Son, whatever got into you to kiss me like that?" The son responded, "Mom, they told us to not kiss our dates any different than we would kiss our mothers."

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Family Reunions

Continued from pg. 11

- Create your own Family Feud game! Hand out survey questions, tabulate the answers, make the contest fun and competitive.
- Honor program for one individual family member, living or passed on. Encourage each core family to participate creatively.
- Act out skits from favorite family stories, either of ancestors or of your own core family.
- Talent show. Choose an emcee to organize it ahead of time and keep it moving along.
- Set out a large paper for each of the first generation; encourage attendees to write memories or notes of admiration.
- Play Ancestor Bingo.
- A family testimony meeting can be powerful if an appropriate setting is created.

Have you considered how organizing a family reunion could encourage your family to thrive? Set a goal, and reap the rewards!

Mesa History Museum

Continued from pg. 15

so many stories we want to tell - not just about the history of spring training, but the human interest stories - the local Lehi man who, in the 1930s, had an opportunity to join the Yankees minor league team but he had to pass up the opportunity to stay home to run the family farm; the Japanese internment league; Native American baseball tournaments; the all-female Cantaloupe League... These are just a few of the special stories that will be featured in our new museum."

Stop by for a visit to tour their existing exhibits. Check the website for hours and admission: https://www.mesahistoricalmuseum.com. For those interested in supporting the Play Ball museum and the museum as a whole, please visit their website. While there, mark your calendars for the exciting calendar of annual events they host. Consider donating, joining in for Catfest, visiting the arts and crafts fair, and so much more.

Endorsed by:
Senator David Farnsworth
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Representative Jacqueline Parker

"I am running for Mayor to help the City learn to live within its means. Mesa's Government leaders have strayed from conservative budgeting as evidenced by over taxing its citizens."

"San Bernardino, California filed for bankruptcy in 2012. I was elected Mayor in 2013 and led the city to successfully exit bankruptcy. I will use the skills I learned to stabilize Mesa's spending and reduce its overreliance on bond financing."

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- ➢ Eliminate Overspending City Revenues
- ➢ Stop Raiding Utility Funds
- ➢ Stabilize Utility Rates

✓ Support Public Safety
- ➢ Increase Patrol Officers

✓ Promote Free Market Opportunities

WEB SITE: careydavisaz.com EMAIL: rcareydavis@gmail.com PAID FOR BY: Carey Davis for Mayor AUTHORIZED BY: Carey Davis

SCAN ME

Family and Automobile History Made My LeSueur Car Company!

JT LeSueur with one of the first Fords. Ranchers and Farmers said it will never replace the horse.

In the midst of the balmy Jersey Islands in 1851, the LeSueur Family embarked on a daring adventure, bidding adieu to the soothing waves and setting sail across uncharted waters to the promise of the American frontier. With grit and determination, they traversed the vast plains by handcart, weaving through rugged landscapes until they found their haven in the heart of Bountiful, Utah.

But the LeSueurs' journey was far from over. In 1878, destiny called once more, beckoning them to the sun-drenched lands of Mesa, Arizona. Braving the scorching heat, they embraced their new home, determined to carve out a future amidst the arid desert sands. Little did they know, their descendants would leave an indelible mark on the landscape of Mesa and beyond.

Enter John Taylor LeSueur, the patriarch with a vision as expansive as the Western horizon. Armed with nothing but a covered wagon and boundless ambition, he embarked on a journey of entrepreneurship that would shape the destiny of generations to come. From mercantile stores to fruit companies spanning from Mesa to Salt Lake City and Seaside, Oregon, his ventures flourished like oasis in the desert.

But LeSueur's legacy transcended mere business acumen. He donned the mantle of civic leadership, serving as Mayor of Mesa and Maricopa Stake President, weaving himself into the very fabric of the community he helped build. His benevolence knew no bounds, as evidenced by the donation of his European-style abode to inaugurate the Mesa Southside Hospital, a beacon of hope for generations of Arizonans.

The LeSueur Family and a Volkswagen ID4 EV.

Yet, amidst the bustling streets of Mesa, a revolution was quietly brewing. In 1917, John Taylor LeSueur dared to defy convention, acquiring the first-ever Maxwell Phaeton Cabriolet to grace the dusty roads of the desert. Skeptics scoffed, proclaiming that no machine could rival the noble steed. Oh, how wrong they were! As the photograph attests, the LeSueurs embraced their newfound freedom on wheels, ushering in an era of transportation that would shape the course of history.

Fast forward to the present day, where echoes of innovation reverberate once more through the canyons of Mesa. Electric vehicles emerge as the chariots of tomorrow, heralding a new dawn of sustainability and progress. In a world polarized by politics, they stand as beacons of unity, transcending ideological divides in pursuit of a common goal.

As one proud owner of an electric steed, I bear witness to the marvels of modern engineering. With a range that defies expectations and charging that's as simple as a flick of the wrist, the shackles of fossil fuel dependency fall away, leaving behind a world of endless possibilities. Gone are the days of gas station woes and environmental guilt, replaced by the exhilaration of silent acceleration and the whisper of wind beneath electric wings.

But the journey doesn't end here. As we gaze toward the horizon, we envision a future where flying cars soar amidst the clouds, a testament to humanity's boundless ingenuity. And so, the LeSueur legacy continues, a testament to the enduring spirit of adventure that drives us ever onward into the great unknown.

For more information, visit https://www.used-vwaudi.com/ or see LeSueur Car Company at 1109 E Curry Road, in Tempe, Arizona.

Gathering of Tribes 2024
Continued from pg. 11

of Tribes events to family, committee members, church leadership, and the dedication of many volunteers. Members of the Mesa South Stake and seven other surrounding stakes, provided essential support in various capacities, from security to childcare to meal preparation. Their selfless service exemplified the spirit of unity and generosity that defines the Gathering of Tribes community.

Beyond the celebration of culture and faith, the Gathering of Tribes events serve several important goals. They aim to strengthen the community of Indigenous believers, promote gospel principles and traditional values, and cultivate spirituality and relationship with Jesus Christ. Additionally, these events seek to educate non-Indigenous Church members and leaders about Native traditions and experiences, fostering greater understanding and acceptance within the Church community.

Looking ahead, Cindy and her co-planners Shane Manning and Amber Irwin envision expanding the Gathering of Tribes to include members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints of Asian and African American heritage. Their vision reflects a commitment to inclusivity and a desire to create a space where all members of the Church can come together to celebrate their unique identities, deepen their faith, and feel loved for who they are.

In reflecting on the success of the Gathering of Tribes, Cindy emphasizes that none of it would be possible without the support and dedication of many people. Their collective efforts have transformed the Gathering of Tribes into a transformative experience that celebrates culture, strengthens faith, and fosters unity among Indigenous peoples of North America and beyond.

For more information please visit https://www.gatheringoftribes.org

Endure

By Emily Jex Boyle

Nearly three decades ago, President Russell M. Nelson, then a member of the Quorum of the Twelve, performed a science experiment in his talk at the April 1997 General Conference entitled, "Endure and Be Lifted Up." Using a spool of thread, a pin and a card, he demonstrated a surprising feat. As he forcefully exhaled through the axial of the spool, the card remained attached to the other side of the spool. As long as President Nelson exhaled, the card stayed.

President Nelson taught:

"Energy is always required to provide lift over opposing forces. These same laws apply in our personal lives. Whenever an undertaking is begun, both the energy and the will to endure are essential. Whatever your work may be, endure at the beginning, endure through opposing forces along the way, and endure to the end. Any job must be completed before you can enjoy the result for which you are working."

Erik Hurst just completed his junior year of high school in Rexburg, Idaho. When he was twelve, attending Banff Centre Mountain Film Festival World Tour, Erik and his family watched "Divided," a documentary about two friends who rode a self-supported mountain bike race from Canada to Mexico. The friends rode through Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado and New Mexico on a series of gravel roads. Erik remembers, "As I watched, I decided one day I would do it."

In May 2023, Erik and his dad Scott began their own self supported journey at Antelope Wells, New Mexico. In all, the pair rode a total of 2,735 miles in 36 days, arriving in Banff, Alberta on July 4th. En route, there was laughter and there were tears, low points and turning points, broken bikes, saddle sores and moments when it was tempting to quit. There was a lot of rain and sticky peanut butter mud. There was also joy in beautiful vistas, kind people along the way, and even some joy from Nutella on tortillas. They found the energy and will to endure.

Courtesy of Alex Nabaum

An Illustration of Erik and Scott's journey.

Courtesy of Erik Hurst

Erik watched a documentary about a trail connecting the borders of Mexico and Canada through a series of gravel roads.

Courtesy of Erik Hurst

Erik Hurst (pictured his with his dad, Scott) rode a total of 2,735 miles in 36 days from New Mexico to Canada.

"Erik's grit and tenacity never cease to amaze me on this trip," his dad records during the trip, "He kept a positive attitude throughout the whole ordeal (with his bike breaking down.) I am super proud of him and his determination to keep pushing on day after day"

When asked how this epic ride changed him, Erik responds, "It's made me less likely to quit. Anytime there was rain, it was definitely low and it taught me to keep with things even when it's hard until they're finished. When I look back, it's a blessing because you can see all the little ways that God's hand has been in it. If you can endure something you can see God's hand throughout the process."

Jesus shows us "by the path he trod, the one and only way to God." As our perfect example, He came to dedicate His divine and essential energy and will to endure on our behalf for our eternal welfare. As our resurrected Savior, He invites us daily to find peace and joy as we follow Him on his course, one eternal round. Perhaps for us, this course is comparable to a well-worn wilderness single track, or a beautiful long bike ride, with highs and lows, needed repairs and angel helpers, with maybe sometimes some delicious Nutella on a tortilla.

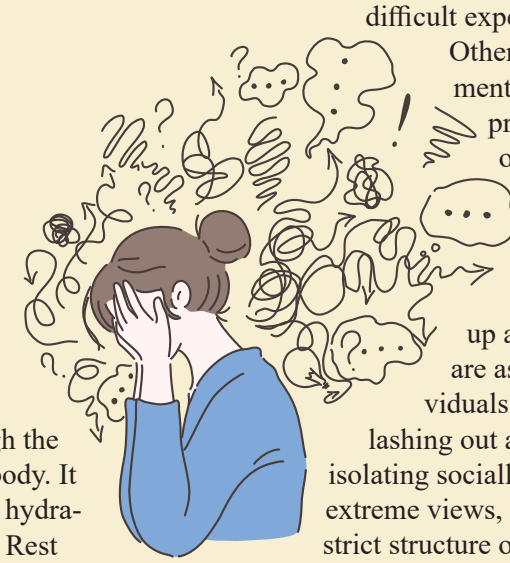
Life Changes & Your Mental Health

By Allison Beckert

Mental illness isn't always forever, it often shows up in response to changes in a person's life or circumstances. With treatment and care, this trial doesn't last but it can be frightening for all involved while it's dealt with.

Change shows up in our lives with incredible diversity. Pressures within any of our circles can create stressors that cause our bodies to react in sometimes unhealthy ways to cope. Two of the most stressful events in life are moving and getting a new job – each change has multiple layers of expectations and needs. Socially your sphere has changed and who you spend time with becomes uncertain for awhile while you adjust and connect. Within your close relationships, such changes mean you may not have as much to give and may need more support than at other times which can add pressure between you and your immediate support system. New experiences are going to put your body and mind under stress.

When such changes are either imminent or actively happening, stress management techniques can make all the difference in how you come through the other side. Physically look after your body. It can be so easy for a nutritious diet and hydration to fall down your list of priorities. Rest may be difficult to come by reliably with late nights and difficulty sleeping. These are very normal reactions when undergoing a stressful event. Do all you can to eat regularly and with a variety of foods and, where necessary, nutritional supplements. When it comes to rest, treat your bed and personal space with reverence and make it a spot that is a safe haven in the turmoil. Allot an hour or two to unwind before going to bed, and if it's still difficult to get to sleep and stay that way, talk to your doctor for resources as sleep is where your mind and body processes difficult experiences into the past.



Other stressors are more mental. These can include pressure to perform at work or school, a project that is challenging with an impending deadline, or even a challenge of faith. This pressure builds up and our reactions to them are as varied as we are as individuals. Some reactions include lashing out at our family and friends, isolating socially, expressing sudden extreme views, or attaching ourselves to a strict structure of behavior or belief.

When facing an internal challenge, a safe place to explore these things is essential. Whether you need to make time to meditate in the face of high pressure to quiet your nerves or seek out a trusted friend to hear out your concerns and worries. If a safe person isn't available, journaling your thoughts with emotional honesty and prayer before seeking help from others can let the pressure release and help the words come more smoothly.

VOTE RON WILLIAMS

FOR MESA CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 1

ENDORSED BY MESA POLICE ASSOCIATION

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- Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame Inductee – Class of 2022
- Arizona Lifetime Achievement Award – "Lifetime of Service"

DEDICATED TO:

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- Addressing Housing Needs of Mesa Residents

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By Jaylene Garrett

Research suggests that only 9% of Americans that make resolutions complete them. In fact, research goes on to show that 23% of people quit their resolution by the end of the first week, and 43% by the end of Jan. (Ohio University Feb 2, 2023, Rich Batts.)

You aren't alone if your resolutions are not working.

Harold B. Lee suggested that "Most men do not set priorities to guide them in allocating their time, and most men forget that the first priority should be to maintain their own spiritual and physical strength. Then comes their family, then the Church, and then their professions-and all need time. (Teachings of Harold B. Lee pg. 615)

A few years ago, our Stake President Lynn Westergard counseled members to set a one-word goal for our next year. He had read the book, *One Word* by Jon Gordon. The book suggested that "The secret to a simplified life is One Word. Words such as Serving, Purpose, Grace, Surrender, Power, and Discipline have shaped and molded us in amazing ways…"

After praying about President Westergard's talk we knew our word was JOY. We researched scriptures and talks from our leaders to understand joy. For example, President Russell M. Nelson explained in his Oct 2016 General Conference talk "Joy and Spiritual Survival" that "When the focus of our lives is on Jesus Christ and His gospel, we can feel joy regardless of what is happening - or not happening - in our lives."

"How, then, can we claim that joy? We can start by 'looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith' (Hebrews 12:2) 'in every thought.' (D & C 6:36) We can give thanks for Him in our prayers and by keeping covenants we've made with Him and our Heavenly Father. As our Savior becomes more and more real to us and as we plead for His joy to be given to us, our joy will increase."

"As in all things, Jesus Christ is our ultimate exemplar, 'who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross.' (Hebrews 12:2). Think of that! In order for Him to endure the most excruciating experience ever endured on earth, our Savior focused on *joy*!"

We now had divine guidance on how to have more joy in our lives.

Two more one-word examples:

Intentional - The focus of time and energy is on strengths, and the good things in life, and don't let fear hold you back.

Consecrate - Give priority to spiritual things, doing God's will and serving Him through-out the day.

Priorities, spiritual study, promptings, and one-word lessons are all meant to help to improve our goals to come closer to Christ, our Savior. Our journey is important and so are we! We are loved, supported and taught. The more we give up our free agency to do God's will, the higher our spiritual level. We can do this!

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Meant To Be Here

Traveling with the Alcantar family

By Katherine Ogden

Photos by Sal Alcantar

The idea of traveling to visit each temple in the US came to the Alcantar family in August 2017. They gathered together for a family council to discuss the idea. Less than three weeks later they were headed out on the road!

The family was also inspired to perform service as they traveled, the idea coming from a book called *Masquerading as Angels* by Lance Richardson. "We also have to do service in each place or it doesn't count as being visited," says Sal.

Their original temples visited goals were: 160 hours of service, 83 temples, 25,000 miles, 50 states, one family and unlimited memories. Those statistics have changed a bit but the unlimited family memories have not! They've needed to take a couple breaks but recently started on Phase Two of their journey, to visit temples in Europe.

Their 96th temple visited was The Hague Netherlands Temple, #97 temple was the Paris France Temple, then on to #98, the Bern Switzerland Temple. The entire family served in each temple. "From Paris, we flew to Zurich," shared Sal, "When we landed, we had no transportation and no place to stay. We rented a 9 passenger van and then off to the Bern temple. Then, we headed off to Wengen, to a chalet up in the Alps. We had to take a train to get there."

"The Bern Switzerland Temple has rich history as it was the very first Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints European temple," says Sal, "The patron housing reminded me of the mission; 3 bunk beds all in one room, with six lockers. We met many saints that gave us advice on how to travel between countries, the must-sees and best routes for our large van so we can take in all the views of Switzerland and explore."

The Alcantar family in the Swiss Alps: Sawyer, 11, Ambrey-Jae, 8, Drezen 16, Sal, Ange and Zander, 14.

The Alcantar family at the Hague, Netherlands Temple: Sal, Drezen, Zander, Sawyer, Ambrey-Jae and Ange.

The Alcantar family motto is "meant to be here," which means that they are meant to be here on this Earth, and meant to experience life. They stopped long enough to participate in the Spartan Race München Germany. "We drove through 3 countries to make that Spartan race experience happen!" says Sal. They also participated in a similar Spartan race while in Italy.

"With the minimum age being 12 for skydiving there, all the boys and I experienced jumping out of a plane together over the Alps," shared Sal. "Later, the whole family ran off a cliff and went paragliding through the Swiss Alps canyons."

After visiting temple #99, The Lisbon Portugal Temple, they are looking forward to visiting and serving in their 100th temple: The Santo Domingo Dominican Republic Temple. Sal served his mission in the Dominican Republic in 1995, when the Church dedicated the land for the building.

If you would like to follow the Alcantar family to see where they are headed next, you can visit Instagram @sal.alcantar97 or Facebook @sal.alcantar.7.

Remember Newspapers as a Family History Resource

Newspapers are sometimes forgotten as a tool in family history research to discover more about family members. Think about how news and other information was shared before the internet and before the widespread use of smart phones. In the past a wide variety of family information was published in local newspapers.

Newspapers can be a useful source for birth, marriage and death information. Obituaries were a staple of newsprint content. They are a valuable resource of information about living and deceased family members in addition to birth and death details for the deceased. In the past, birth announcements were published in the local paper. My wife Lynne found an article containing her year-old picture. On the same page was a picture of Ronald A. Rasband who shares the same birthday.

I recently tried to see what more I could find out about my parents from old newspapers. I found an article in the society page of a Sunday Morning Ogden, Utah paper with a picture of my mother, her brother and their mother with a caption "Mrs. Walter A Kerr and children, Adele and Knight who have returned after a pleasant stay in France." This confirmed the timing of my mother's return from spending more than a year in France as a five-year old with her parents and brother.

The New York Times

MAN WALKS ON MOON

ASTRONAUTS LAND ON A PLAIN AFTER STEERING PAST CRATER

Voice From Moon: 'Eagle Has Landed'

Bleak, Rocky World Seen From Module

Boulders May Prove Scientific Boons

Photo Taken from The New York Times – July 21, 1969

Newspaper Headline before the internet.

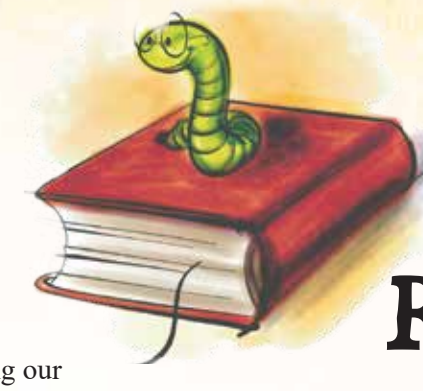
I found a more detailed article about my parents' marriage and wedding reception. This was different than the article already on her FamilySearch profile. The newspaper article is full of details about the reception describing the flowers, table arrangements, dresses worn by participants, etc. A paragraph of over fifty words describes her wedding dress and accessories. When reading the article, I found that my father's best man was a person that I had did not know. I did some research about this individual (fortunately he did not have a common name) and it is likely that they must have become friends while both attending Stevens-Henager College in Salt Lake City. I uploaded the newspaper clipping to FamilySearch and added it to my parents' "Memories". My mother's familysearch.org ID is KWCZ-K1Q if you are interested in reading the article.

Now for an example of how newspapers can help with research: A friend asked me to find out more information about his uncle Bill. All he knew about Bill was his name, that he was in the British Royal Air Force in World War II and of course that he was married to his aunt Carol. These two were married in Iowa in 1946 and then moved to Calgary, Alberta Canada. If they had stayed in the states, I could have found them on the 1950 US census and found more information about Bill. A newspaper article about their marriage listed his first name as J.W. and that he was from Liverpool, England. His aunt Carol's obituary listed his name as Bill and that he was still living. I assumed that Bill stayed in Calgary and possibly died there. I searched for an obituary and found one. Family members listed, and that he was a pilot during WWII confirmed that this was his obituary. His first name was listed as Joseph William (Bill). The obituary gave his death date and that he was 79 years old. With that information, I was able to find information about his birth in England and ordered a birth certificate which gave his parents' names. Newspapers made this research possible. Remember to use newspapers as a family history resource!

By Glen K Tolman

Family HISTORY

Dancing in the Rain!



Beehive BOOK REVIEW

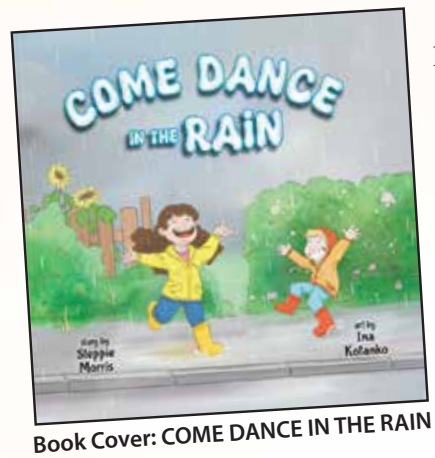
By Cindy R. Williams

Arizona author Stephanie Morris's newest children's book, *Come Dance In The Rain*, with its fun rhyming charm and whimsical illustrations, will surely become a family favorite.

"Do you have time for work or play? Why not both!" Morris exclaims. "Finding time for family fun is easier than you think. This book shows kids how they can play an essential role in the family and encourages the whole family to work tougher so they can all play tougher and soak up every moment!

"Being a parent is becoming increasingly difficult. As a parent, I easily got caught up in all the work until I realized I was missing the "dance in the rain" moments and would never get them back," says Morris.

Morris continues, "About that time, I saw how my kids thrived when included in the work and family fun planning. And it all began to click. We could teach life skills while helping our children understand they had an important role to fill as family members, and we could share the household workload so there was more time to play together.



Book Cover: COME DANCE IN THE RAIN

"At first, there was a bit of a learning curve, but then each of our kids took pride in helping. And there is nothing that can replace building family memories as you spend time together. Once I had seen how important working and playing together was for my family, I just had to share it!" says Morris.

"As I wrote these rhyming lines, I realized a valuable part of this story is how the children decide to help all on their own. Kids are so smart these days, and why not empower them to use their brainpower for the good of those they love the most: their family?

"I firmly believe in the power of books to foster curiosity, inspire imagination, and spark creativity in young minds! Books certainly did that for me!"

Come Dance In The Rain has charming illustrations by German artist Ina Kotanko. The book is published by Lawley Publishing and is available online at Amazon, Barnes & Noble, etc.

To contact Morris, reach out to Instagram@stephanieannmorris.aurtho or Facebook @ Stephanie Ann Morris.

Author Stephanie Morris
Photo by Ted Photography,
Instagram@tedphotographycom

By Robin Finlinson

Come Follow Me

This article supports the readings scheduled in the 2024 manual titled *Come, Follow Me—For Home and Church,* specifically in the books of Jacob through Mosiah in the Book of Mormon.

The Precarious Road

Photo by Robin and Tanner Finlinson

Mortal life is like inline skating on dirt and rocks. But there's a purpose for that.

Life in the telestial, mortal stage of existence is like inline skating (a.k.a. rollerblading) along a road of dirt and rocks, with only occasional patches of somewhat smooth concrete. As children of God, we feel instinctively that we're meant to glide at phenomenal speeds and accomplish extraordinary things. So why all the obstacles in our way? Why are we formed in the image of God but have such limitations?

The natural man might see this rocky terrain as a critical design flaw by the Creator, Jesus Christ. But there's no better design for teaching us what is most important: how to become like Him, so He can welcome us in to live with Him and our Father on that metaphorical "sea of glass" and enjoy the wondrous lifestyle of glorified souls (Doctrine and Covenants 130:7-9).

Every pebble or boulder we face is Part One of a gift from God. It shows us our weakness and helps us humble ourselves before Him (Jacob 4:6-7). Part Two of the gift is His assistance to deal with it. The struggle to get passed it heats, presses and polishes our raw, sandy nature until we sparkle a bit, reflecting Christ, our Beacon up ahead.

Since things are to be "done in wisdom and order," as King Benjamin pointed out (Mosiah 4:27), we can't skip from pre-earth life to the celestial.

Helen Keller said, "I long to accomplish a great and noble task, but it is my chief duty to accomplish small tasks as if they were great and noble."

We're not asked to travel faster or tread on more than we are personally able. If we can only relieve a little discomfort of those with us on the trail, then that little is enough (Mosiah 4:26-27). And the Good Trail Leader multiplies our offerings like He multiplied bread and fish (Matthew 14:15-21; 15:32-39).

It's a precarious road that scrapes all who take it. Some travelers blame others for their scrapes, like the Lamanites in Mosiah Chapter 10, believing their people had been "wronged" in numerous ways by Nephi centuries ago. They were still bitter because of his "favored" status with the Lord. In their "eternal hatred towards the children of Nephi," they sought to "do all they could to destroy them."

Nephi had faithfully kept the commandments and therefore was the beneficiary of miracles. But the Lamanites seemed to overlook his excruciating trials. Some are like clear quartz. Though invisible to others, those who tread on them have daily jagged reminders they are there. Only Christ trod on every unique mineral composition, lifting us to cross over those that are not requisite for us to bear (Mosiah 24:14-15). "O how marvelous are the works of the Lord, and how long doth he suffer with his people…" exclaimed King Limhi (Mosiah 8:20).

Christ knows that trudging along the hard, often mountainous ground builds our spiritual muscles and stamina. He and His teachings then cease to be "a stone of stumbling and a rock of offence" for us (Isaiah 8:14), and we recognize Him as "the rock of [our] salvation" (Jacob 7:25; Mosiah 21:5, 13-14).

We learn that the Holy Spirit can "wrought a mighty change in us, or in our hearts, that we have no more disposition to do evil, but to do good continually" (Mosiah 5:2). We can come to desire that all people—even those who have truly wronged us—know of the possibility of redemption through Him (Mosiah 28:3).

So, why get stuck in the mud of telestial thinking, when Christ is preparing us to glide?

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What's Cooking?

By The Arizona Beehive Magazine

Warm weather gatherings call for cool eats. Artichoke and Red Bell Pepper Spread served with crisp corn or pita chips is a great way to start off a dinner party or BBQ. Get your friends together and enjoy these great recipes!

ARTICHOKES & RED BELL PEPPERS

Artichoke Spinach Dip With Roasted Red Bell Peppers

Prep time: 10 minutes. Cook time: 20 minutes. Servings: 6-8

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 14 oz. can (or frozen, thawed) artichoke hearts, drained, diced (not marinated)
- 1 9 oz. pkg frozen creamed spinach, thawed
- ½ cup finely diced red onion
- ½ cup diced roasted red bell pepper
- 2 T pesto sauce (homemade or purchased)
- 1/3 cup grated parmesan cheese
- 2 T mayonnaise
- 1 tsp. freshly cracked black pepper
- ½ tsp. salt
- Chips – Tortilla, pita or your choice

PREPARATION

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.

In a medium mixing bowl, add all the ingredients except the chips, and mix well. Transfer to a small baking dish and cover with foil. Bake for 10 minutes. Remove foil and continue cooking for 10 more minutes. Carefully remove from oven and serve with chips.

Note: The dip can be prepared in advance and kept in the refrigerator until ready to cook. If this is done, allow to reach room temperature before baking or add 10 minutes to the cook time.

Artichoke & Red Bell Pepper Spread

Prep time: 10 minutes. Servings: 8-10

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 32 oz. jar artichoke hearts, marinated in oil
- 1 8 oz. pkg cream cheese
- ½ cup sour cream
- 1 16 oz. jar red bell peppers, packed in water
- ¼ cup pesto
- 2 tsp. chopped garlic
- 1/3 cup grated parmesan cheese
- Olive oil as needed
- 2 T fresh rosemary, finely chopped

PREPARATION

In food processor, blend cream cheese, sour cream, pesto and parmesan. Add rosemary and garlic and pulse into a thick paste. Remove to bowl and set aside.

Blend artichokes and bell peppers in the processor, just until chunky (do not make a paste). Fold the cream cheese and artichoke mixture together in a large bowl.

Refrigerate. Serve in a bell pepper bowl if desired with your choice of chips or crackers.

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JUSTSERVE

Hospice Nurse Plays Instrumental Role in Patient's Joy

By Lin Sue Flood

You see it at every symphony performance. People so enraptured by the music — their eyes close and their fingers dance in the air.

Stuart Brown is one of those people. But as illness began to limit his mobility, the 81-year-old relinquished the thought of ever attending a live concert again. That's when his Hospice of the Valley nurse secretly reached out to the Phoenix Symphony with a request to hold a small private concert in his Scottsdale home.

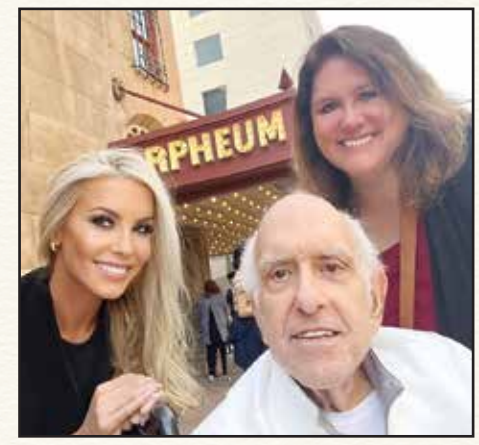
"We absolutely can make this happen for him and his family," said Valerie Bontrager, director of community engagement. Days later, concertmaster Boson Mo and associate concertmaster Maggie Martinic arrived to play Stuart's favorites — from "Fiddler on the Roof" to classical compositions by Strauss, Mozart, Chopin and Beethoven.

"To see him enjoying the songs and tapping his foot was incredibly rewarding," said Maggie. "When music inspires people, that's a gift back to us."

Stuart's daughter, Heather, was blown away by their talent.

"It's not every day that two first-chair violinists come to your home," she said. "They gave Dad a day that will never be forgotten. Our hearts are full!"

The mini concert so energized Stuart that his nurse, Kirsta Johnson, gently encouraged attending a live performance again. The Phoenix Symphony gladly rolled out the red carpet, providing tickets to a Broadway-themed show at the Orpheum for both of them, plus Stuart's two daughters.



Stuart's daughters, Melissa and Heather Brown, accompany him to a recent concert at the Orpheum Theatre.

"It was one of the best experiences that I can remember," Stuart gushed. "I've rediscovered music and it has awakened me to the fact that there is still so much good in my life. Maggie even came to say hello during intermission."

"Witnessing the smiles and happiness was so special," Kirsta said. "He sat in the loge balcony and could see the majesty of the whole orchestra. What a treat to be part of allowing him to enjoy something he didn't think was possible!"

Since then, Stuart has attended two more concerts and looks forward to many more. His family says he is a "new man" and credits his positive new perspective on life to that memorable little concert in their living room.

"Watching him experience that in our home was so emotional," Heather recalled. "We know he would not have this joyful outlook without the dedication and compassion of his care team and those musicians — it means the world to us!"

Lin Sue Flood is director of community engagement at Hospice of the Valley. For information on programs and services, visit hov.org or call (602) 539-6900.

Phoenix Symphony concertmaster Boson Mo and associate concertmaster Maggie Martinic played songs that Stuart longed to hear.

VALLEY TEMPLE SCHEDULES

Additional Information:

- Appointments for proxy ordinances are encouraged. Patrons without appointments are also welcome, but may be asked to wait for an opportunity to participate. To schedule or modify a proxy appointment, visit your temple's information at https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/temples
- Patrons are encouraged to bring their own temple clothing.
- Ordinances for family names must be done in proper sequence—baptism, confirmation, Melchizedek Priesthood ordination (males), initiatory, endowment, and then sealing. Please allow sufficient time to perform all the ordinances you wish to complete during your visit. For additional help and information, please call the temple.
- Please contact the temple for more information or if you have special circumstances or needs.
- Temple websites can be found by searching churchofjesuschrist.org/temples

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